

CLEAN VERSION OF THE CLAIMS:

11. (amended) A method for using a computer to present price comparison to a prospective buyer for products offered for sale by a plurality of merchants, said merchants stocking said products in stores that said prospective buyer may personally visit to see and/or touch and/or feel said products, said method comprising:
collecting information from a plurality of said merchants that comprises data on said products including price;
storing said data into at least one of a plurality of databases;
entering a product and a state into the computer by a prospective buyer;
presenting a plurality of records associated with merchants having local stores in said state wherein the records show a price comparison between the merchants having local stores to said prospective buyer.

12. (amended) The method for presenting a price comparison according to claim 11 further comprising
collecting additional information from sales circulars;
collecting information relating to merchant name, merchant address, product description, model number, regular price, sales price, coupons, rebates, colors, and sizes;

entering geographical region, postal code, town name, or county name into the search key;
sorting the database according to price.

13. (amended) The method for presenting a price comparison according to claim 11 further comprising

entering data for merchants offering a specific product in a specific state into the database, wherein the data includes merchant name, product description, sales price, coupons or rebates;

providing access to the database through a browser interface;

presenting options to the prospective buyer for choosing a state and a product;

retrieving the data after the state and product are chosen by the prospective buyer;

sorting records in an ascending order based on sales price into a listing;

presenting the prospective buyer with the listing including merchants offering the product for sale in the chosen state;

furnishing an option to the prospective buyer to initiate sorting based on a merchant name.

14. (amended) The method for presenting a price comparison according to claim 11 further comprising

mapping the data to a unique address for a geographical area-product pair combination;

immediately presenting comparison data for a unique geographical area-product pair to the prospective buyer.

15. (amended) The method for presenting a price comparison according to claim 11 further comprising

checking inventory at a local store of a merchant upon request of a prospective buyer to determine availability of a chosen product;

checking delivery status of the product;

reserving the product at the local store for pickup after determining availability has been performed.

16. (amended) The method for presenting a price comparison according to claim 15 further comprising

entering a registration token;

accepting the registration token by the merchant;

guaranteeing a purchase by the merchant based on the accepting of the registration token by the merchant.

17. (amended) The method for presenting a price comparison according to claim 11 further comprising

collecting additional information from sales circulars collecting information relating to merchant name, merchant address, product description, model number, regular price, sales price, coupons, rebates, colors, or sizes;

entering attributes into a search key;

entering geographical region, postal code, town name, county name, state name, product name, product category, model number, product description, price, product features, or brand name into the search key;

sorting the database according to model number;

entering data for merchants offering a specific product in a specific state into the database, wherein the data includes merchant name, product description, sales price, coupons or rebates;

providing access to the database through a browser interface;

presenting options to the prospective buyer for choosing a state and a product;

choosing a state and a product by the prospective buyer;

retrieving the data after the state and product are chosen;

sorting records in an ascending order based on sales price into a listing;

presenting the prospective buyer with the listing of merchants offering the product for sale in the chosen state;

furnishing an option to the prospective buyer to initiate sorting based on a merchant name;

mapping the data to a unique address for a geographical area-product combination; connecting to the unique address;

immediately presenting comparison data for a unique geographical area-product pair to the prospective buyer;

checking inventory at a local store of a merchant upon request of a prospective buyer to determine availability of a chosen product;

reserving the product at the local store for pickup after determining availability has been performed;

entering a registration token or a credit card number;

accepting the registration token or credit card number by the merchant;

guaranteeing a purchase by the merchant based on the accepting of the registration token or credit card number by the merchant.

18. (new) A method for using a computer to present price comparison to a prospective buyer for products offered for sale by a plurality of merchants, said merchants stocking said products in stores that said prospective buyer may personally visit to see and/or touch and/or feel said products, said method comprising:

collecting information from a plurality of merchants having local stores that comprises data on said products including price;

storing said data into at least one of a plurality of databases;
presenting at least one of a plurality of records that shows said price comparison to
said prospective buyer.

Please cancel claim 20 without prejudice to its reintroduction at a later point in time.

Please cancel claim 22 without prejudice to its reintroduction at a later point in time.

Please cancel claims 20, 22 and 24 through 27 without prejudice to their
reintroduction at a later point in time.

Please enter the following new claims:

28. (new) A method for presenting a price comparison to a prospective buyer comprising

collecting information for products offered for sale by a plurality of merchants in local stores;

storing said information into records in a database;

connecting the database to a computer operated by a prospective buyer;

entering a product selected by the prospective buyer and a selected state into the computer;

presenting to the prospective buyer on the computer a list of merchants selling the selected product locally in the selected state and sorted in ascending order by price; selecting a merchant and a local store by the prospective buyer; entering the selected merchant and the selected store into the computer by the prospective buyer; delivering the selected product to the prospective buyer in the selected local store.

29. (new) The method according to claim 28 further comprising reducing the purchase price by a coupon in the hands of the prospective buyer.

30. (new) The method according to claim 28 further comprising rebating part of the purchase price upon purchase of the selected product by the prospective buyer to the buyer after the sale is established.

31. (new) The method according to claim 28 further comprising collecting the information from newspaper advertising; and searching the database based on a search key defining a product and a geographical region; retrieving data from the database; arranging the data in a sorted order to show comparison.

32. (new) The method according to claim 28 further comprising
entering a registration token into the computer for reserving purchase of a product
available at a local store;
picking up the product at the local store based on the registration token;
granting to the prospective buyer a number of days of price protection during which
time the selected merchant will return any price difference between the price paid and
a price presented in a bona fide offer by another merchant to the buyer.

33. (new) The method according to claim 28 further comprising
collecting information for products from sales circulars into the database; and
presenting to the prospective buyer on the computer a number of top picks of
merchants selling the selected product locally in the selected state and sorted in
ascending order by price.